

Dear Senate Commerce Committee of Kansas.

My name is Devon Bray. I have shot over 900 Music Videos and 40 Weddings in Wichita Ks before shooting 5 Movies that's on Amazon Prime and Tubi movie streaming platforms. I was born and raised in Wichita, Kansas and live here today. I've been married 22 years and run a family business serving my community with film work for 14 years now.

Please accept this letter in support of House Bill 2182. I never understood why I had to do this on my own without any help or resources starting out. I'm thankful for being relentless on what I believe in to make it this far, but it's so many fellow film producers that have no way of getting started because of the lack of tax credits and support from the state. I've spent time in other states seeing how film incentives boost morale in the film community and bring prestige to their city. In some cases, Kansas is just as good or better at producing content but we are not able to compete with other cities who produce high-dollar, high-exposure movies. Yes, my movie PPP LOAN GONE on Amazon Prime has become very successful going viral on social media, but it's sad we as film makers need a miracle to just be noticed. I do the best I can to bring attraction to our city through film work but it would be nice if the state could help a little. As I become well known in this industry, my concern is having to leave because the city does not support what I do on the level I'm doing it and other cities will. I've already made hundreds of thousands of dollars from my movies and now I'm concerned with what happens when I start making millions without the city input or help on creating all these jobs for people which is already happening. I love shooting in my hometown, and I love the people who live here, it's no other place like it. In the movies I produce, you will see drone footage of my city, and the people that live here acting in the production as well. My concern is without an incentive program, we cut out the state from any serious consideration for big productions. When it comes to producing movies, it almost feels like a monopoly being the only one in the City doing it right now. I take pride in being a Movie City, but being the only one is taking a toll on me, versus going to other cities being able to spend time with other movie directors and writers I can vent to and relate with. 2023 was the first year I could pay my actors good money, but it took years to do. It's discouraging telling fellow film makers my testimony how it took 6 years busting my tail to get real money out of producing movies. Most never start, being discouraged after talking about what it takes to get here.

Please support our film community because we have great potential in Wichita, Ks. I will continue to believe in this great state of writers, film producers, and directors but I also believe this great state can give us the resources to open more business opportunities and more jobs for actors and those who work behind the camera. I don't ever plan on leaving my city, but this industry is important to me and my family because we dedicated our whole life to it, and we must go where ever the support is to continue the success we are having.

Sincerely,

Devon Bray

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